

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 PA-03

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/193 W

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R 011748Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3063

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF HMG DISSATISFACTION WITH  
COMMON MARKET

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. "SUNDAY TIMES" JULY 29 CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY  
ENTITLED "BRITAIN HEADS FOR DISASTER IN EUROPE, SAY  
CIVIL SERVANTS." ARTICLE BY STEPHEN FAY,  
EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT, REPORTS THAT A GROUP OF MOST  
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SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WORKING IN BRITISH MISSION TO

COMMON MARKET IN BRUSSELS HAVE SENT REPORT TO LONDON SAYING THAT "ALL THE EVIDENCE OF SEVEN MONTHS' MEMBERSHIP SUGGESTS THAT EEC IS A DISASTER FOR BRITAIN." OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY FORESEE SITUATION IN WHICH BRITISH ECONOMY GOES ON SUBSIDIZING COMMON MARKET PARTNERS WHILE GETTING LITTLE OR NOTHING IN RETURN. ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT REPORT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN LONDON BUT THAT BASIC ATTITUDES IN THE REPORT ARE REJECTED AND "THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO BRAZEN IT OUT."

2. ARTICLE IN "SUNDAY TIMES" STATES THAT DISAFFECTION WITH COMMON MARKET RUNS RIFE THROUGH THE HOME CIVIL SERVICE WITH ONLY FOREIGN OFFICE REMAINING LOYAL TO DECISION TO GO INTO EUROPE. IT ADDS THAT TREASURY HAS TRIED TO STOP BRITAIN FROM PAYING FUNDS INTO COMMON MARKET IF IT CANNOT BE SURE OF GETTING AT LEAST AS MUCH OUT. ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT MAIN PROBLEMS COVERED BY BRUSSELS REPORTS ARE (A) INTRACTABILITY OF EVERYONE BUT BRITISH OVER COMMON AGRICULTURAL FUND AND (B) LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR COMMON REGIONAL FUND DRAWN UP BY MR. GEORGE THOMSON BY THOSE NATIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR IT. ARTICLE CONCLUDES ON NOTE THAT INSIDE THE COMMUNITY BRITAIN'S ECONOMY IS REGARDED AS "LOW PERFORMANCE" AND NOT IN A POSITION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A MARKET DOMINATED BY THE HIGH PERFORMANCE ECONOMIES OF GERMANY, FRANCE, BELGIUM AND HOLLAND.

3. FOLLOWING DAY (JULY 30) "FINANCIAL TIMES" CARRIED DENIAL OF FOREGOING REPORT BY BOTH BRITISH MISSION TO COMMON MARKET AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE. IT SAID THAT BRITISH PERMREP TO COMMUNITIES AUTHORIZED CATEGORICAL DENIAL THAT SUCH REPORT HAD BEEN SENT TO LONDON. THIS DENIAL WAS ECHOED BY FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH ADDED THAT "NO SUCH REPORT HAD BEEN DRAFTED IN LONDON EITHER." "FINANCIAL TIMES" ARTICLE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT THERE IS LARGE VOLUME OF DIPLOMATIC TRAFFIC BETWEEN BRUSSELS AND LONDON AND "THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS AT LEAST ONE EXPRESSING SERIOUS ANXIETIES AT THE APPARENTLY DESTRUCTIVE TACTICS OF THE FRENCH." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOWEVER, THE "FINANCIAL TIMES" WINDS UP ITS STORY OF THE DENIAL WITH THE REPORT THAT ALL MAJOR DESPATCHES PASS THROUGH THE HANDS OF THE PERMREP OR HIS DEPUTY AND IT WOULD THUS BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR A REPORT TO REFLECT WIDELY DIFFERING VIEWS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS INSIDE THE BRITISH MISSION, AS THE "SUNDAY TIMES" SEEMED TO BE ALLEGING. END UNCLASSIFIED

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EMBASSY COMMENT: OUR CONTACTS WITH U.K. OFFICIALS IN  
PAST MONTHS HAVE NOT RPT NOT BORNE OVERLY PESSIMISTIC  
TONE OF TIMES ARTICLE, AND WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY  
"REPORT" SUCH AS THAT MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE.  
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SOHM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** ETRD, EGEN, UK, XX, EEC  
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